

GENERAL BRIEVITIES.

SIXTY thousand Philadelphia families, it is said, will soon break up house-keeping and return their Centennial visits.

FLORIDA has a young lady named Neuralgia. Her mother found the name on a medicine bottle, and was captivated by it.

A MAN at Keokuk has cut out and pasted in a scrap-book accounts of 1,100 different boiler explosions, and now he wants to sell the collection for \$500.

It is remarked as a little singular by a student of Biblical paintings that all the patriarchs are represented as being bald.

It should be remembered, however, that most of them married young.

NEW HAMPSHIRE is the only State that requires its Governors and legislators to be Protestants, and its Constitutional Convention, now in session, recommends the abolition of the religious test.

In Springfield, Mass., tramps who get lodging and breakfast at the city's expense are put to work in the streets four hours next day. One morning 15 of a party of 20 broke and ran, thus escaping work.

THE Meissonier picture ("Soldiers Playing Cards") that was sold at the Taylor Johnson sale for \$11,400, measured only eight by ten inches. It sold, therefore, at the rate of \$137.50 for each square inch.

MR. GEORGE B. HAMILTON, of Dubuque, Iowa, is sure of enough flour to last his family through the winter, however the rest of us may be situated. He holds, at present, 750,000 bushels of wheat, or one-thirtieth of the visible supply in the States and Canada.

A CHINAMAN, who was recently arrested for burglary in San Francisco, was found by the keeper of the prison inhaling the gas from the burner, and nearly exhausted. When he was taken into the open air, he languidly opened his eyes and said, "Me likee muchee die."

ALL physicians in Texas, under the new law, are required to appear before the county board of examiners, appointed by the District Court, and stand an examination in chemistry, anatomy, physiology, and materia medica, before they can have legal assistance in collecting their bills.

THE Tuscaloosa Times says that there is an exhibition in Marion, Alabama, a child born of negro parents, whose body is one-half white and the other half black. The white portions are white as alabaster, the dark part black as the sea of spades. One-half of the scalp and hair is perfectly white.

THE Imperial hunt, which takes place in a tract of country to the north of Corea, in China, every three years, for the purpose of supplying the Imperial table with dainties and of exercising the soldiers who take part in it, is to be abandoned for the present, on account of the impoverished state of the exchequer.

It is not generally known that Delaware had the largest trees on exhibition at the Centennial. One of the sections measured 21 feet in circumference and another 19 feet, and while California can produce taller trees, there were none that drew so much in circumference as the trees from diminutive Delaware.

ONE Chinaman so seriously injured another in Nevada that death was expected. The Chinese company to which both belonged decided that, in case of death, the murderer must give the relative \$1,000 and pay the cost of doctoring and burial; and in case of recovery he must settle with the physicians and pay the injured man the amount of lost wages.

ACCORDING to an English authority, redness of the nose in both sexes is produced by inattention to the common rules for preserving health. With men, the bottle is the predisposing cause; with women, and especially the young, tight lacing. An unnatural pressure on the waist causes the constriction of the circulation, and causes stagnation of the blood in that prominent and important feature, the nose.

A SAN FRANCISCO young lady received an invitation to attend the theater the other evening just as the Chinaman came for her wash. She hurriedly made out a list of the washing, and answered the invitation. Then she sent the list to the young man and kept the answer to his note. There was soon a very much confused young man, a very much mortified young woman, but no theater-going for either of them that night.

An English lady has had a curious experience in the use of gas globes made of toughened glass. Precisely one hour after the gas was put out one of the globes burst with a loud report into a number of large fragments, and these in turn continued to break up of themselves into smaller pieces until there were none left larger than filberts. The globe bore the stamp of M. de la Basie, the celebrated Continental manufacturer of tempered glass.

THERE is a very simple way of avoiding the disagreeable smoke and gas which always pour into the room when a fire is lit in a stove, heater, or fireplace, on a damp day. Put in the wood and coal as usual; but before lighting them, ignite a handful of paper or shavings placed on the top of the coal. This produces a current of hot air in the chimney, which draws up the smoke and gas at once. Not one person out of fifty ever thinks of this experiment.

Sawdust is a dangerous material wherever it is piled, not only is it a wholly safe substance to strew upon floors. Several cases have recently been noted where conflagrations have been caused by cigar-stumps igniting the sawdust, which smoldered slowly in the receptacles, unperceived, and finally set fire to the adjoining woodwork. Sawdust, moreover, when slightly impregnated with oil or grease, is very prone to spontaneous combustion. Not very long since, an instance occurred where the sawdust sifted down through cracks in floor-boards, and accumulated beneath the beams, where it absorbed spilled oil. It eventually burst into flame, which nearly destroyed the entire edifice.

ARE plants growing in occupied rooms injurious or beneficial to the health of the occupants? This question is asked by Mr. George H. Perkins in the last number of the *American Naturalist*. He concludes that house-plants are injurious only so far as they increase the carbonic acid in the air of the apartment, and as they give out deleterious perfumes. He thinks the increase of carbonic acid is more than counterbalanced by the taking up of the same substance, and the throwing out of oxygen by the plants; and as to the fragrance, he believes that the milder odors are not harmful, though long inhalation of the more intense perfumes

might prove unhealthful. Another argument in favor of house-plants is that the necessity of supplying them plentifully with light and air causes many a room to be well lighted and aired which otherwise would be dark and unwholesome.

THE project at present under consideration in England of establishing a line of telegraph across the African continent from the Cape of Good Hope reminds us of the curious fact, not generally known, we believe, that the earliest system of telegraphy for signaling over long distances was originated among the African negroes. It is still more remarkable that the means used were telegraphic, and the signals were read by sound, and not by the eye, as in the case of the semaphore or early signaling devices. The "ellibemie," as the instrument used is termed, is still in existence, and has been in use from time immemorial in the Cameroons and the long distance telegraph among the African negroes. It is still more remarkable that the means used were telegraphic, and the signals were read by sound, and not by the eye, as in the case of the semaphore or early signaling devices. The "ellibemie," as the instrument used is termed, is still in existence, and has been in use from time immemorial in the Cameroons and the long distance telegraph among the African negroes.

ON Nov. 21 there died in Carlisle, England, through injury inflicted by a runaway horse, one of the most practically benevolent and public-spirited men of the day. His name was George Moore, and he was for fifty years a member of a great London firm engaged in the manufacture of lace and muslin. He steadily declined all municipal honors, but he consistently supported all good works in religion, charity, and public instruction. Among the many efficient institutions which owe their existence to him are the Commercial Travelers' Orphan School, the Royal Hospital for incurables, the British Home for Incurables, a special branch of the Female Mission among Fallen Women, the Little Boys' Home, and the Field-Lane Ragged Schools. He had also for many years taken part in an experiment for the private reformation of thieves, and was constantly occupied in building churches and schools, and relieving the distress of the suffering poor.

LIVADORA, the favorite retreat of the Russian royal family, which has been so often mentioned of late, is an exquisite place for luxurious and special pleasure. It is known as "the Government of Taurida," on the road from Jalta to Alupka. Three verandas from the former begin the vineyards and park of the heir apparent's residence. It is built in Oriental style, and its turrets and minarets emerging from a sea of foliage have a cheering effect. The interior is the perfection of sumptuous comfort. An easy staircase leads to the roof, whence a splendid and varied view over land and sea is obtained. Behind this villa stands that of the Czar, which is very similar in character and appointments. The principal facade is toward Jalta, a small seaport, once a Greek colony. The remains of splendid architecture attest its whilom importance. On the terrace beneath the castle are exquisite gardens, and a trellis work covered with roses of extraordinary growth. The scene, when a full moon sheds its radiance over the gardens, rocks, and sea beyond, is enchanting. Here the Czar seeks rest in summer and autumn, but this year, it may be feared, found none.

Can Owls See in the Day-Time.

Yes; to be sure they can. We know they can. Owls are denounced as nocturnal marauders. Yet that fact does not signify that they can not see by daylight. Many boasts of prey that can see better by daylight than in the night, always go forth from their lurking places at night. There was an owl on the porch of our barn at midday. We were pitching sheaves of oats from the mow, at the opposite end of the barn, about forty feet distant. As a sheaf was lifted with the fork, there sat a large mouse. But before we could throw it, the mouse had disappeared, released to strike that mouse, the owl darted from his position at the further end of the barn and swooped up the mouse and returned to the beam where he had been sitting, holding the little captive in his sharp claws. As soon as the mouse was dead the hungry owl tore his flesh to fragments and swallowed them. One of the Ithica papers states that recently in the daytime four owls were observed in the laboratory of the Cornell University. One of the owls is kept alive. He has disposed of parts of several fish, a chipmunk and a live snake two feet long. The encounter with the snake was quite amusing. The owl, on spying him in a glass case, evinced a desire to form a closer acquaintance, and so the snake was placed on the floor of the laboratory. The owl with one fell swoop came down upon his snake, and striking its claws into his back, raised his head to its mouth and instantly smashed it. Then commenced the process of deglutition. The owl proceeded to swallow the snake's head first, and proceeded badly enough, until, after a minute's struggle, all was swallowed but two inches of the tail. At this point the owl stopped to take breath, and stood with its eyes slowly blinking, while the two inches of tail, still visible, was wiggling vigorously. At last, summoning up courage, the owl gave a last struggle, and the end of the tail disappeared, still wiggling, down his throat.—*New York Herald.*

Exposure of Young Children to the Cold. We should say that no child too young to walk or run should be taken out when the external temperature is below 50 degrees; that the rooms in which they live and sleep should never be below 58 degrees; and the day room should be three or four degrees warmer. The practice of wheeling children about in perambulators, sitting or reclining in one position without exercise, is particularly harmful. We would earnestly appeal to mothers to put aside all feelings of vanity, or what is sometimes misnamed natural pride, and cover the arms, neck and legs of their children as a simple sanitary precaution. High frocks, long sleeves, and warm stockings should be worn out of doors; hats which cover the head, and boots which keep the feet as dry and warm as possible. On coming in from our streets, nearly always damp, both boots and stockings should be changed; and if the feet be cold, a warm foot-bath should be used for a few minutes. The exquisite pain of chilblains could be saved to many children by this use of hot water for hands and feet. We see that flannel has yielded to merino, shirley on account of the greater convenience of ready-made underclothing; but there is nothing equal to flannel for the property of preserving warmth.—*British Medical Journal.*

A MICHIGAN MURDERER.

The Woman Who Held Her Fingers in Her Ears While Her Husband Was Choked to Death.

(From the New York Herald.)

The sensation of Northern Michigan is the terrible murder at Chessing, near Saginaw, Mich. A woman named Smith loves a young man named Alexander. They continue their love for more than a year. Smith, the husband, is cross and jealous. They want him out of the way, and a plot to murder him is planned. Mrs. Smith has a sister, just married to one Cargin, in New York State. She hates Smith, and so does her young husband. Correspondence follows, the letters are destroyed. They agree to kill the jealous husband, and make a journey to Michigan for the purpose. Alexander is to stand by with a truck-strap for Cargin to choke Smith after he has been stunned with a club. At midnight, when Smith is lying in bed with his wife, Alexander leaves his hotel, enters an open window, meets Cargin and his wife, who are stopping in Smith's house. Cargin gets the club and falls upon the sleeping Smith, who gives one groan of despair. The guilty wife arises softly, goes to her babe in an adjoining room, and while the blows continue on her husband's head, and while the trunk strap is drawn around his gasping throat, she puts her fingers in her ears and presses the babe to her bosom. Smith is killed after a frightful struggle. Once he cries out and moans. Blood flows from his nose and mouth. The bed is saturated with the blood. To remove all traces of violence, Alexander and Cargin cut the plastering from the wall, put it in the bed, and carried the still warm body to the mattress to the barn; they pitch a log on his upper lip, they set fire to the barn in two places. While they are doing this the two women scrape the bloody floor and headboard in the house with a pair of scissors. Suddenly lurid flames burst from the roof of the barn, wild cries echo on the midnight air, the neighbors hurry from their beds only to see the red-hot outlines of the barn sink into a mass of flame. The women scream and pull their hair, and in convulsive sobs inform the startled neighbors that poor Mr. Smith went out to look after his horses, when a kick from one of them disabled him, broke the lantern and set the barn on fire. On the day following that night of sin and shame the remains of the mattress were found and other proofs that could not be explained away. Then Alexander, the Don Juan of the tragedy, confessed, Mrs. Smith corroborated his dreadful story, and the jury found Cargin has just been convicted of murder in the first degree. The evidence against his wife is now before the jury, after which Mrs. Smith and her lover, Alexander, will take the prisoners' stand.

Cargin declares his innocence; also his wife's. She says she is sick and a bed is allowed her in open court. The following is a description of the strange scene, as given by the *Saginaw Courier* of December 27:

"Yesterday proved to be an interesting day in the Cargin-Smith murder trial and considerable progress was made, though from present appearance it is not probable that the case will go to the jury before Tuesday or Wednesday next. Twelve witnesses were called and testified on the part of the people. The crowd of spectators was smaller than common during the forenoon, but after the noon recess every available space, outside the bar, was occupied both on the floor and in the gallery. Deputy Sheriff Rice had plenty to do to keep the crowd from pressing forward and obstructing the view of the ladies occupying the seats. The defendant's becoming generally known as the sleeping beauty. She still occupies her easy chair and reclines on her left side with her feet upon the footstool of another chair or resting with limbs extended in full length in the chair itself. She is turned partially toward the jury, but only the pointed right cheek and forehead are visible to them. Her eyes are shut almost continually, so that it is impossible to get a fair look at them, and during the whole day she did not raise her head from the pillow except as she rose to go to her cell. One would naturally wonder what kind of a nature she must have to endure the ordeal of the starting and blood curdling revelations made against her by the witnesses on the stand. At times when no one is known to be observing, she can be seen to peep at the witness with her right eye partially opened, the left being hidden from sight by the pillow. But the moment she observes any person looking at her she is quickly closed and remains so until she thinks it safe to look again, at no time as she sits or reclines in her easy way can the eager throng catch even a glance at her.

After giving the testimony the reporter continues:

"At this point in the testimony Mrs. Cargin was seized with one of her frequently occurring fits, and she began to gasp, stretch, and clutch at empty nothingness with her outstretched hands, and at once William A. Clark, Jr., laid his hands upon her, and upon her and whispered some forceful utterances in her ear, by which she was made to understand that it wasn't the right time to put in a fit to the best effect and advantage, whereupon she instantly became quiet. Mrs. Smith at the close of the court was still on the stand, and will be again this morning. We could see no perceptible change in her testimony except as to new facts, and her demeanor was about the same as on the former trial, except that she testified to her criminal intimacy with Alexander with a little more nerve than on the former trial, though yesterday it was interspersed with an occasional giggle."

Hydraulics of the Ancients. Father Secchi has written a letter to the Academy of Sciences on this curious subject. The monuments he mentions have been mostly discovered by him in the environs of Rome. The first mentioned by him is an aqueduct built at Alatri, 200 years before the Christian era. It is an inverted siphon, its low est point being 101 meters below the surface from which the water flowed into the town, so that it sustains at its bottom a weight of at least eleven atmospheres. The pipes of this aqueduct are of earthenware, buried in a thick bed of concrete; they were very firmly joined together along a length of seven and a half miles. This work seems to have been the model on which Vitruvius founded his description of siphon aqueducts. The second remarkable relic of antiquity found at the same place is a complete system of drainage composed of enormous porous stone-water pipes, a meter in length, seven centimeters in diameter, and only two in thickness. This was done to dry up a plain intended for military maneuvers.

Next come inclined planes expressly laid down on substantial foundations, and near the top of a mountain, in order to collect rain-water on a large surface with a basin to purify it, and cisterns to preserve it. This was done to provide the town of Seggi with portable water. Then follow contrivances of the ancients for turning the water filtering through porous stones on the slope of half an acre. Mr. Secchi thought of this. They used also to rid water of its carbonate of lime by boiling and then cooling it again by applying snow to the outside. They likewise had an ingenious way of cooling their aqua tepida, which was too warm for drinking after it had been brought over to the Capitol. Father Secchi has discovered the spring whence it came, and found that it marks 18 deg. centigrade (64 deg. Fahrenheit) in winter. The Romans used to mix it with water from the Julia, which only marked 11 deg. The other spring, now called Preciosa, issues from an old volcanic crater.

Footprints on the Sands of Time. The Eastern scientific world is agitated over the discovery of human footprints in the sandstones of Connecticut. The tracks of birds, pterodactyls and prehistoric animals have been long known to exist in those rocks; later investigations have led to the discovery of human footprints.

In New Mexico many ancient ruins of an ancient race of inhabitants are found, and also veritable footprints in the sand rocks. If the traveler drive route to Santa Fe from this city will take the trouble he can verify the fact. On the stage road near the ruins of the old Pecos Pueblo, a ledge of sand-rock outcrops across the road, on the left hand side, an examination of the surface of the rocks will reveal human footprints in the solid rock. The impressions are perfect. Some are large, evidently those of grown persons; others are small, those of children. Some were made by the naked foot, others by feet encased in moccasins. There is no mistake or fraud in the matter; footprints are there in the solid rock.

Who made them and how were they made? We did not have time to take the trouble to determine the geological period to which this particular stratum of rocks belongs. Undoubtedly it was fashioned at the bottom of the sea a few million years before Adam's time. We do not think the footprints were made a few hundred or perhaps a thousand years ago. The rocks evidently formed, at one time, the bed of a small creek flowing near by. At that time the footprints were made. The water softened the surface of the rock sufficiently to take the impression from the feet of the Indians playing in the water; or else the tracks were made in a layer of sand and mud. The creek in sand, about the size of a finger, leaving these rocks high and dry. They again become baked and hardened, retaining the footprint. The action of the elements has not been able to erase them. A track in sand-rock would be more lasting than in many other kinds. Sand is but slightly soluble, and if the surface was sufficiently hard to prevent washing away, it would not be dissolved.—*Las Vegas (N. M.) Gazette.*

Woman's Love Above All.

A young woman with a babe at her breast came into the Police Station and asked for a lodging. She was thin and poor, and the frozen snow hung in masses about the skirt of her dress. "I walked in from the country," she said, when the usual question was asked her: "my husband came in to look for work. As he did not come back I made up my mind that he fell in with some of his old cronies. So I came to look for him. Mother offered to keep me, but I know she hasn't more than she needs for herself. I have walked ten miles for breakfast and I say I stay here tonight." The officer said she could. As she was passing through the corridor she caught sight of a man standing behind the bars. He was unshaven and haggard, and his red eyes told the cause of his being there.

"Why, Jim!" The man glanced up. He brushed his hand across his eyes, looked at her again, and it is to his credit that his voice trembled when he said: "How came you here, my dear?" "Oh, Jim!" and the poor wife began to sob: "I was afraid of this, and came after you. I knew you wouldn't go to do it of your own accord; but then I knew, Jim—then I knew! I knew what it would come to."

"Yes," and the young fellow's eyes filled with tears; "I know it's so, but I never knew it so well before. But if I get out of this, I'll give you my word it's the last time. I'll stay with you, and you know I never have promised you that before."

The mother leaned against the bars, and let the tears flow for a moment. She then straightened up and went directly to the clerk. "How much does he owe?" she asked.

"Three dollars and forty cents."

The woman took from her pocket a solitary five-dollar bill and paid the fine with it. She then turned to the clerk, opened the young man passed out, and in a moment was marching down the street, with the babe on one arm and his wife close to his side.—*Cleveland Leader.*

How to Treat Mischievous Children.

Here is a little child, who is a great trouble and mischief. He is always asking to do this or that, and is impossible to manage. He bursts in abruptly upon the conversation of his seniors. He destroys all peace in the house by shouts and screams, imperious demands on the time and attention of every one, endless interruptions of every one's affairs. He is an imp of mischief, breaking furniture, overturning inkstands on the carpet, setting fire to valuable papers, driving nails into the furniture, and so on. You shall see the mischief he does to this or that, and how impossible to manage. He bursts in abruptly upon the conversation of his seniors. He destroys all peace in the house by shouts and screams, imperious demands on the time and attention of every one, endless interruptions of every one's affairs. He is an imp of mischief, breaking furniture, overturning inkstands on the carpet, setting fire to valuable papers, driving nails into the furniture, and so on. 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